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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	USSR (Azerbaydzhan SSR)	REPOR1		
SUBJECT	Soviet Military Activity along the Iranian Border	DATE DISTR.	26 January	1955
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	THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT	ARE DEFINITIVE.		

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1. In autumn 1952, Soviet engineers and mine-layers planted mines in Amerbaydshan SSR near the Iranian border. These mine fields began at Daman and extended to the mouth of the Astara River. In particular, they were found around Anvaz, 25X1 Armudi-Koshl, Tangu², Bandasar (N 38-28, E 48-45), and on the slopes of the (N 38-24, E 48-43), and Kashbi (N 38-26, E 48-47). The Soviets have also placed mines in the Baghehelar hillsides in the Baghehelar-Shandan area (N 38-26, E 48-37).

THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE. (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

- 2. In February 1954, the Seviets were shooting rockets on the border strip between the USSR and Iran, about ten kilometers from Astara (N 38-28, E 48-52), in the Azerbaydzhan SSR. Some person believed that these rockets were being shot by a newly invented gun, but owners thought that they were shot by pistols. The smoke
- 3. During March, there was an increase in the number of Soviet soldiers patrolling the Soviet-Iranian border. Also trucks loaded with straw or petroleum were seen on the Soviet side of the border. The Soviet soldiers at Alasha3, Qermezi Post, and Korpi Post were replaced and reinforced. Some of the soldiers at the outposts were reported to be only fifteen years old and unarmed.
- 4. Also in March, there were indications that the Soviets were concentrating their forces on the border.

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- 5. On 18 March, six Soviet officers were seen for the first time on the Soviet border. They were fishing opposite Yeddi Evlar, and they appeared to be unacquainted with
- 6. On 18 March, Soviet Lieutenant Colonel Bernovyy (or Branovyy) was seen examining the plowed strip and the barbed wire at Qapchi-Mahalleh. He examined about three kilo-over the Boviet border area on foot. This officer was new in the district and had taken

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13. According to some informants, in July, six to ten Soviet civilians from the used only between the hours of 1100 and 1450, when the border guards were eating lunch. The latter informants also stated that these civilians were not officially employed in these jobs, but that they only helped to carry fuel to the posts.

14. During the month of August, Soviet soldiers practiced shooting with bazookas (sic) in the area about 700 meters north of Soviet Astara. They were shooting at a distance of 30 meters from the target, and each soldier shot three shots in two rounds. 25X1 25X1

15. The nightly use of red rockets by the Soviet border guards and patrols increased substantially in August, especially in the areas of Kalaputi (N 38-48, E 48-25) and Leji. Soviet soldiers in groups of eight fired these rockets on the Tropka road. According to source, the reason for this activity was that new soldiers, who at that time had recently arrived at the new Soviet border post at Kalaputi⁵, were being trained at night.

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	omments			25 X 1	
1.	Source is probably re	eferring to Armudi (N 38-25, I	148-41).		
2.	This is possibly ide	ntical with Tango (N 38-25, E	48-40).		
3.	3. This is possibly identical with Alashi (Alachai) (N 38-27, E 48-48).				
4.	This is probably Rud	kinar (N 38-29, E 48-51)			
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